AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS:

Please cancel Claims 7 and 20 without prejudice to or disclaimer of the subject matter recited therein.

Please amend Claim 1 and add Claim 22 as follows:

1. (Currently Amended) An imaging optical system ~~comprising,~~ comprising:

an iris stop;

a layered diffraction optical member laminated with a plurality of diffraction parts, wherein said layered diffraction optical member is provided in front of ~~a pupil of said imaging optical system~~ said iris stop; and

a refraction optical member disposed on a rear side of said iris stop,

wherein said layered diffraction optical member includes a first diffraction part of negative power and a second diffraction part of positive power provided behind said first diffraction part,

wherein said first diffraction part and said second diffraction part each include a diffraction grating, and said diffraction grating of said first diffraction part is made of a material having a dispersion characteristic different from that of a material from which said diffraction grating of said second diffraction part is made,

wherein said layered diffraction optical member is formed to have high diffraction efficiency for diffracted light of a particular order over a visible wavelength range to be used in said imaging optical system,

~~wherein said first diffraction part and said second diffraction part are configured to reduce the incident angle of a ray of off-axis primary light which is incident on said second diffraction part, and~~

wherein said imaging optical system forms an image on an image plane with light that has passed through said layered diffraction optical member, said iris stop, and said refraction optical member.

2-3. (Cancelled)

4. (Previously Presented) An optical system according to Claim 1, wherein an air layer is interposed between said first diffraction part and said second diffraction part.

5-16. (Cancelled)

17. (Previously Presented) An optical system according to Claim 1, wherein each of said first diffraction optical part and said second diffraction optical part comprises a diffraction grating, and wherein the diffraction gratings have blazed shapes oriented in opposing directions.

18. (Cancelled)

19. (Previously Presented) An optical system according to Claim 1, wherein no lens of said optical system is present on a front side of said layered diffraction optical member.

20-21. (Cancelled)

22. (New) An optical system according to Claim 1, wherein said refraction optical member is a lens element.